SAC, KANSAS CITY 7/17/68

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

MURKIN 44-1987

New Orleans has conducted extensive investigation in an attempt to determine if JAMES EARL RAY was in contact with any resident of the New Orleans area, during the time that he was in New Orleans from December 17 - 19, 1967, and also when he passed through New Orleans on or about 3/21/68. To date, this investigation has met with negative results. According to CHARLES STEIN, who accompanied RAY on a trip from Los Angeles, California, to New Orleans in December, 1967, RAY alleged his purpose in coming to New Orleans was on business and to contact an individual.

Up to the time RAY escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, in April, 1967, he had spent the better part of the previous ten to twelve years incarcerated either at the MSP or the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Working on the theory that possibly RAY, while in New Orleans, may have contacted a former fellow inmate that he knew at either of the above institutions, New Orleans contacted various state and Federal parole and probation officers as well as officers of the NOPD, in an attempt to determine if these persons knew the identities of any former inmates of the above institutions who might be residing in New Orleans. These inquiries met with negative results.

Kansas City is requested to advise New Orleans if it is known whether there are any persons who were inmates at the above institutions during the time RAY was incarcerated

2 - Kansas City (RM)
1 - Memphis (Info.) (RM)
1 - New Orleans
MC - cst
(5)

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WHO
~~at~~ at the time they were released gave a New Orleans address for residence.